

THE macdonald JOURNAL

MAY 1977



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In This Issue

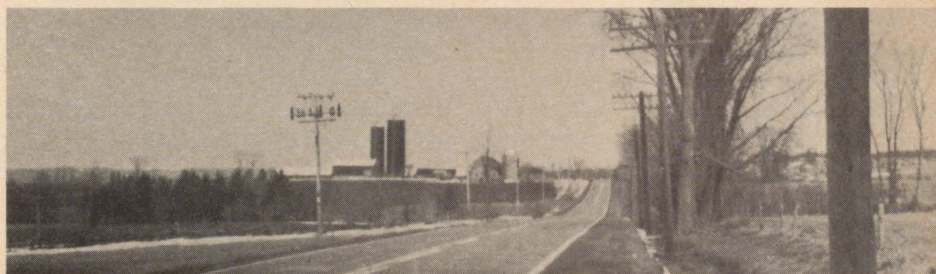
Cover: See page 3 for an article on the ultramodern facilities of Bonnyburn Farm.

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Journal Jottings

As I visited the farm featured on the cover and in the photo at right and therefore wrote the lead-in for the article starting on page 3, there is really little more I can add in this column except to say that I think this feature will be of interest not only to dairy farmers but also to those interested in a modern, mechanized approach to farming.

While travelling to get this story as well as on other jaunts in the country one realizes that farms are not the only things that are becoming more modern; many towns and villages that serve the farming community are sprucing up and this is good. It is when they start spreading out as well that I get somewhat concerned. As apartments, homes, supermarkets, and light industry inch



out to cover the land with concrete and as new roads and highways slice through farms and forests. I wonder what overall planning, if any, has gone into this creeping expansion. If you have wondered about this, too, then you will enjoy reading "Landscape: A New Opportunity." Possibly some of the graduates from this new major being offered at Macdonald will go on to ensure that the price of progress is not always too high.

I feel when reading Professor Hartsock's article on reducing baby pig mortality that he writes with a bit of a sigh. He has said many of the same things before but it seems some producers just don't listen. Maybe this time if you read his article your profits could be higher if your piglet death rate was lower. In fact, saving just one could be your profit!

Hazel M. Clarke

The dairy industry is the most important agricultural activity in the province. Its economic endeavour represents the livelihood for over 60 per cent of Quebec farms. It also provides a great number of jobs for non-farmers who work in associated secondary industries such as transport, processing and marketing.

In the national context, the dairy industry contributes in the vicinity of two billion dollars to the Canadian economy, which is almost 16 per cent of the total national farm cash receipts. Consequently, because of its magnitude, the dairy industry generates a complex network of interests.

In 1975, the federal government formulated a long-term dairy policy for industrial milk producers, the basic aim being to fulfill the domestic demand for dairy products. During the first year of its implementation, 1975-76, production was 12.8 per cent of target. With a world depressed

dairy market experienced during that year the Canadian Dairy Commission was forced to take drastic action to curb milk production by cutting the producer market share quotas for industrial milk. The greatest impact of this policy was felt at the producer level by causing a considerable cut in his revenues.

The new dairy policy for 1977-78, now in effect, was announced by Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan, who optimistically projected that "there are brighter days ahead for dairy farmers."

The new measures which constitute the 1977-78 dairy policy indeed had to have target policies which will provide brighter days for farmers. The important question is how long will these good times last?

Since the industry is vulnerable to cyclic variations, it is advisable for a farmer to observe any early warning signs that might suggest market changes and therefore

be sufficiently flexible to adjust his operation accordingly.

Among the weaker points in this dairy policy are the marketing aspects. The present structures lack the dynamics for an aggressive national and international marketing operation. If the dairy policy is solely aimed at supplying the domestic market in a static or at a constant level, the consumption trend of dairy products might become structural or permanent at the risk of permanently hindering further market expansion.

New and improved market strategies will have to be initiated for greater market penetration of dairy products on the domestic and international markets.

Martin van Lierop

Stepping into the Future

The forecast was for increasing cloudiness and showers but as Rudi Dallenbach, Macdonald College Farm Director, and I drove deeper into the rolling hills of the Eastern Townships, the sun shone brighter. It was late March and shirt-sleeve weather; an ideal day for the threefold purpose of our trip: a visit with a Macdonald Diploma graduate, an opportunity to see what Rudi and many others feel is the most modern dairy barn in the province and, of course, to obtain an article for the Journal. We could see the two tall silos outlined against the sky miles before we finally reached our destination, Bonnyburn Farm on the shore of Lake Massawippi near Ayer's Cliff, where 1957 Diploma graduate Ernie Turner has been employed as farm manager since April 1973.

Bonnyburn Farm, which is owned by Philip Webster, has grown from 100-acre, five-cow farm when first purchased in 1939 by Philip Webster's father into a 1,043-acre and owned or leased enterprise with some 300 head of cattle. Throughout this expansion period the breed of cow — Jersey — has remained the same, and it is with pride that Ernie Turner and Emerson Kinkaid, who came from the Ottawa area to become herdsman on the farm last May, discuss the herd's present record and future potential. That same enthusiasm is evident as they talk about the ultramodern, fully mechanized dairy barn.

Before becoming farm manager, Ernie Turner, a native of Stanstead County, spent 10 years as an AI technician and for three years was in partnership in a 5,000 rabbit rearing business. High costs of feed and labour made it economical-ly impractical to carry on, and it

was at this stage in his career that he went to Bonnyburn Farm. Rudi Dallenbach interviewed both Ernie Turner and Emerson Kinkaid and an edited version of their conversation follows.

Hazel M. Clarke.

Rudi Dallenbach: How is the land divided?

Ernie Turner: Roughly 600 acres are tillable; the rest is in brush, pasture and woodlots. We have several woodlots where men work year round, and we market from them. This year we are tapping close to 6,000 trees in two sugar bushes.

Rudi Dallenbach: Did you use any of your own wood in the new barn?

Ernie Turner: The wood framing materials for the barn were all cut on Bonnyburn property — the 2 by 4s, 2 by 6s, and so on. The building was done by a construction firm and it was actually rather remarkable. We had a silo sitting in the middle of a field on the first of June, building started the first of August, and we moved in on the sixth of November — all in the same year, 1975.

Rudi Dallenbach: Before discussing the barn in detail, I wonder if you could tell us something of your cropping program?

Ernie Turner: It centres around forages. Because of our feeding set up, everything goes through the silo. We are cutting our grains green and, in some cases, we are getting two or three crops off in the year of planting. We are increasing our pounds of protein per acre this way rather than waiting for the grain to ripen off

and the inherent problems of getting onto wet land in the fall. Last year we grew 137 acres of corn; approximately 100 acres of that was grain corn, the balance silage. This year we should bale somewhere in the vicinity of 10,000 bales.

The grain corn is stored in the 20 by 85 foot Harvestore silo as high moisture ear corn. The corn silage is mainly used in the maintenance of heifers and dry cows and is stored at a second barn. The haylage silo is 25 by 95 feet and I would say we put in approximately 700 tons last year.

Rudi Dallenbach: Which grass-legume mixtures do you use for haylage?

Ernie Turner: My main mixture is alfalfa, red clover, ladino, and brome grass. This is on land where there is a chance of growing alfalfa. We have mostly poorly-drained clay soil, therefore on some of the land I go with red clover, ladino, and brome grass. We do not have tile drainage, but we have just completed a soil survey and hope to start tile draining this year.

Rudi Dallenbach: Is your haylage about 50 per cent dry matter?

Ernie Turner: This year we are running about 43 per cent on our test which indicates that we probably wasted about 1½ to two hours every day getting into the fields. I would like to keep the haylage around 50 per cent.

Rudi Dallenbach: What is your feeding program?

Ernie Turner: The feeding schedule is haylage, high moisture ear corn, 35 per cent supplement, dairy

ration and, of course, minerals and vitamins. When dealing with Jerseys, the amount of feed that goes into each animal is not as great as it would be in the larger breeds. Everything is mixed automatically and is fed free choice in a bunk feeder.

The milking herd is split in two. We have what we call the high end and the low end of the herd. We are group feeding so the mixtures are not identical on either side of the bunk. I wish we could group even more. Two just gives us a little bit of an insight into what really could be done if we grouped more.

Rudi Dallenbach: *That's something that not many farmers do but when you have a free-stall barn you have to. How do you determine the amount of grain to feed in the milking parlour?*

Ernie Turner: The cows eat continuously. We keep a monthly average of the amount of grain that is being used in the stalls and try

to adjust the grains going in. We are feeding approximately 16 per cent dairy ration on top of the haylage and corn. With the hermetically sealed silos we use we find that we are short of TDN, not protein. I mentioned the group feeding. We are feeding for mid-way in each group which means the low average animal in each group is getting more feed than she needs and the above average animal is not getting enough.

Rudi Dallenbach: *But here you would compensate because of the full mechanization and low labour requirements. If you want to feed each animal individually, then it would mean more labour or more groups.*

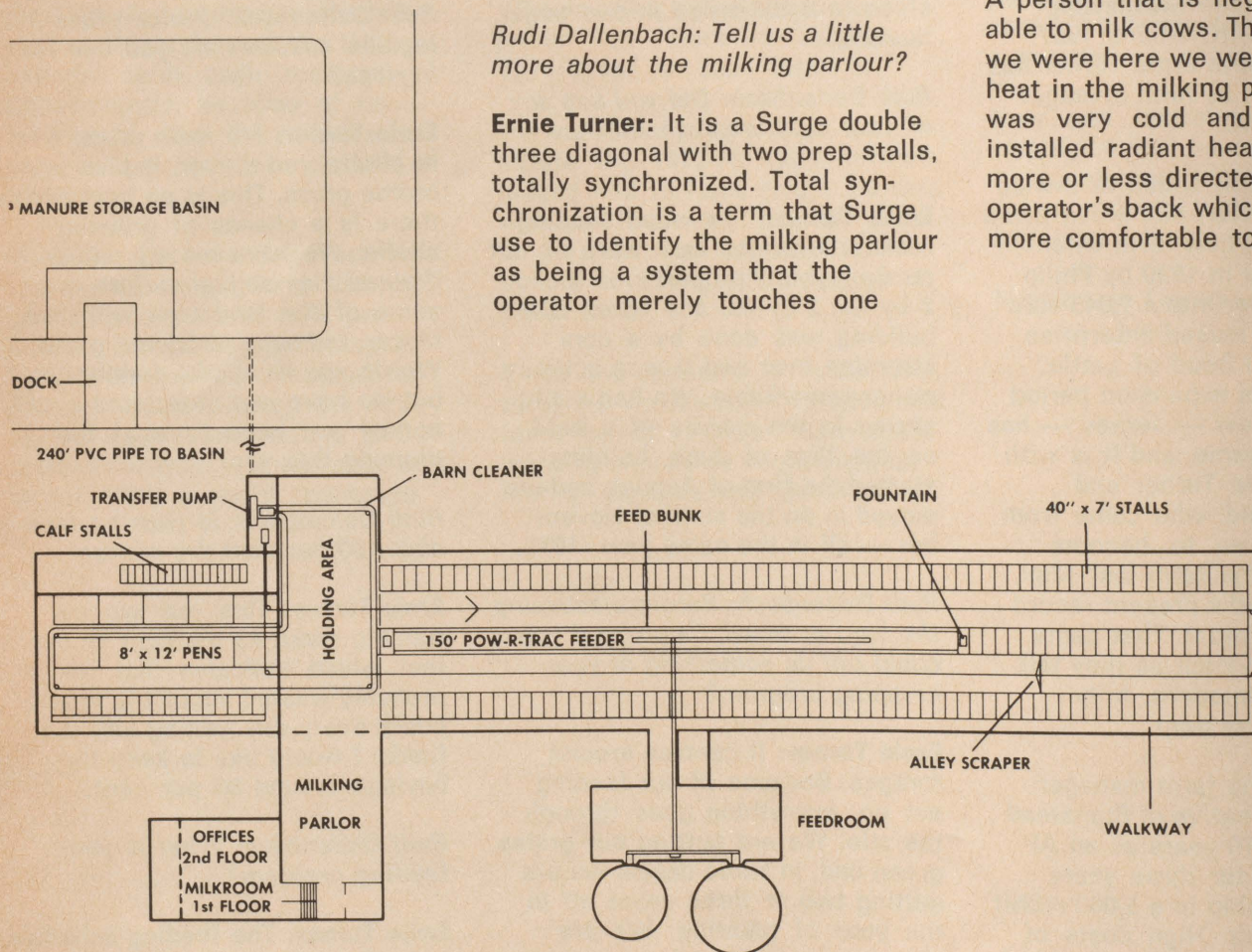
Ernie Turner: True. In the last few months we have been looking at a magnetic type of feeding which would mean that cows in the high average of each group would be able to get feed to compensate for their production. The magnet is attached to the cow's neck and she would activate a particular feeder.

Rudi Dallenbach: *Tell us a little more about the milking parlour?*

Ernie Turner: It is a Surge double three diagonal with two prep stalls, totally synchronized. Total synchronization is a term that Surge use to identify the milking parlour as being a system that the operator merely touches one

button and after that the cow takes over the operation. We are putting our present 125 milking cows through in just slightly over two hours. This is with one man. When the cow enters the milking parlour she is automatically washed from a high pressure spray in the floor. She generally stands in the prep stall for 45 seconds. When she comes through to the milking stall she is rinsed off again. In this case all in 105 degree water. We haven't been drying udders. Our last California test was nine quarters infected on 123 animals, which isn't a problem. Our last bacteria test was 10,000 and 100 which is a low as they go.

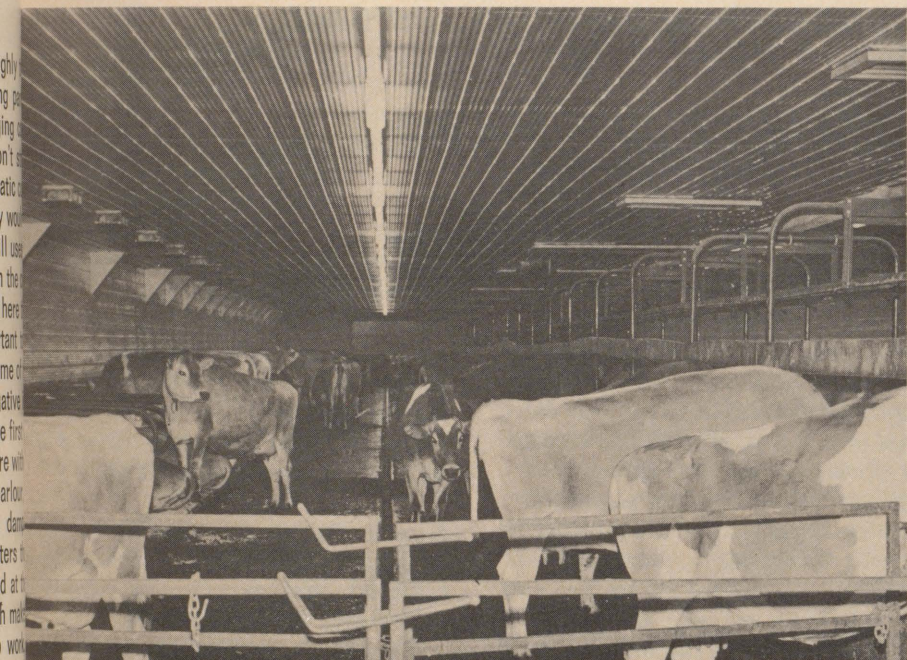
Each cow spends roughly three minutes in the milking parlour — we are not encouraging cows to stay too long. We don't strip and there is not an automatic cut off. The staff decided they would rather not try it. The man still uses his judgement as to when the cow is finished. I might add here that I feel it is very important to keep the men in a good frame of mind. A person that is negative is not able to milk cows. The first winter we were here we were without heat in the milking parlour, and it was very cold and damp. We installed radiant heaters that are more or less directed at the operator's back which makes it more comfortable to work.



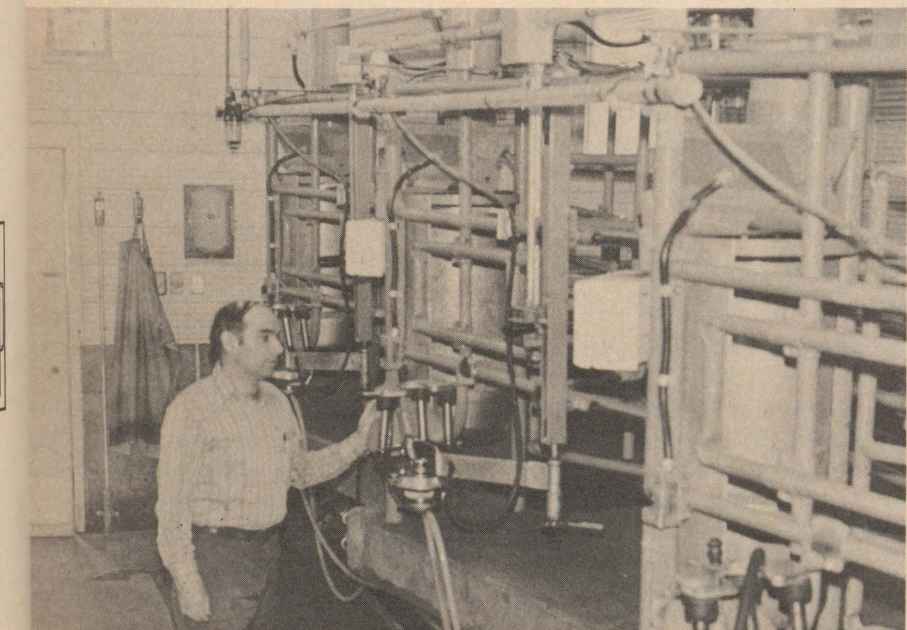
The main part of the building is 325 feet by 48 feet. The barn has office space, milking parlour, dairy, feed room, loose housing area, a sick bay, a maternity area, a calf area, and the manure handling system. The manure storage basin measures at the inside 80 feet by 180 feet.



Rudi Dallenbach, left, and Farm Manager Ernie Turner in the modern office area. Mr. Turner was discussing the maintenance centre, which was completed year ago, where the staff are able to do many of the major repairs and overhauling required on the farm.



This photo shows half of the free-stall area. The stalls are covered with rubber mats and a small amount of shavings. An interesting feature is the walkway at goes around the entire area.



Herdsman Emerson Kinkaid in the milking parlour where one man is able to milk 30 cows in just over two hours.

Rudi Dallenbach: What time do you start milking?

Ernie Turner: The staff starts at 5:30 a.m. and are usually finished by 9 a.m. barring any unforeseen circumstances. They start again at 3:30 in the afternoon and are generally done by 6:30 or 7 o'clock. The three-man staff in the barn are not expected to work outside; they are specialists in their field. Each man works a 12-hour shift. On that shift he works three days on, one day off, three days on, three days off. It is a rotation, and there are only two men here at any one time. One man is in the milking parlour; the other is doing the feeding, taking care of the calves, taking care of any problems in the sick bay, or maternity area. The second man, too, is generally in charge of preventive maintenance; he observes what is going on and tries to stay on top of the mechanical situation.

Rudi Dallenbach: I understand that, as herdsman, Emerson, you have complete responsibility for the animals. What is your average production?

Emerson Kinkaid: Daily production is just a little over 28 pounds per cow. We did get up as high as 30 for the month of December. Our aim is to keep high producing cows of good quality for type and production and we are using high plus bulls in the breed today. We are very strong on udders, feet and legs in a free stall set-up. It is important to any dairy cow — if she hasn't got good feet and legs, she won't last very long.

Rudi Dallenbach: Why don't you turn the cows out to pasture?

Emerson Kinkaid: We feel that with the good quality feed going into the silos it is better to keep the cows in than put them on pasture. We might get a bit higher production in the spring if they were out but then it would drop off, especially in the fall.

Rudi Dallenbach: You are using your silos 365 days a year. Do you

just keep adding to the silo, Ernie?

Ernie Turner: Yes. That is one of the benefits of the bottom unloading silo. These silos are a little bit larger outlay than the normal ones, and to get full benefit from the outlay they should be used to the utmost. We feel that 1½ fillings a year would be beneficial.

Rudi Dallenbach: Going back to the Jerseys, how do you handle dry cows?

Ernie Turner: During winter dry cows are moved out to another barn; in summer they go on pasture.

Rudi Dallenbach: What do you do when a cow is in heat?

Ernie Turner: On diagnosing that she really is in heat, she is put in the sick bay area of the barn. She is held there until she is bred and out of heat. This is also true of animals that are not going to be bred. We get them out of the herd as soon as they come in heat. We would rather sacrifice the milk from that one cow than the milk from three or four.

We breed artificially, using the facilities from St. Hyacinthe as well as purchasing semen from bulls anywhere in North America that we feel bear merit.

Our calves up to 12 weeks old are kept in the main building in individual raised-off-the-floor type stalls. Calves beyond 12 weeks are moved to the same barns as the dry cows and heifers.

Rudi Dallenbach: How is the free-stall barn cleaned?

Ernie Turner: The cleaning system is as automated as we could make it. We have two cleaners in the barn; one that cleans the alley between the resting platform and the feeder. This runs continuously 24 hours a day. It takes roughly one hour to do a complete cycle. The waste is dropped onto a second cleaner — a conventional gutter cleaner and from there carried

to a ram pump and pumped to a 1.2 million gallon holding lagoon, which is roughly 250 feet from the building.

Rudi Dallenbach: Does the lagoon hold all the manure that is produced during the winter?

Ernie Turner: Yes. It not only holds the manure produced from this building but it also holds all the wash water — any of the waste from this building goes to the lagoon.

Rudi Dallenbach: How often do you pump out the lagoon?

Ernie Turner: We start as soon as the frost is out of the ground and the fields will bear the load. We spread then, and through the summer if we have rainy, cloudy weather. Last year, for the first time, we spread the corn ground until the corn was about eight inches tall, and there was no damage to the corn from the weight of the vehicles. When we move into the field with the tractor and spreader, we are going in with about 23 tons. We expected some damage in the crop but it was not apparent.

A lot of liquid manure is spread on the corn and, because it is liquid manure, we are also able to spread on first and second year crops, too, such as alfalfa and clover. As all the water from this building goes to the lagoon and we use approximately six gallons of water per animal per day for the various washing processes that go on, it is quite diluted.

Rudi Dallenbach: As everything is so fully mechanized, you must depend heavily on electric power.

Ernie Turner: We have 550 three-phase power and we have a 55 TVA generator. For about the first six weeks we operated the whole building on our own power. This is our standby generator now and we often use it. In a year and a half we have over 200 working hours on it.

Rudi Dallenbach: Emerson, what

do you find is the biggest advantage to working in this kind of a set-up?

Emerson Kinkaid: Less manpower for one thing, particularly in handling the number of cows that we have. You would not be able to milk that many cows per hour without the type of milking parlour that we have.

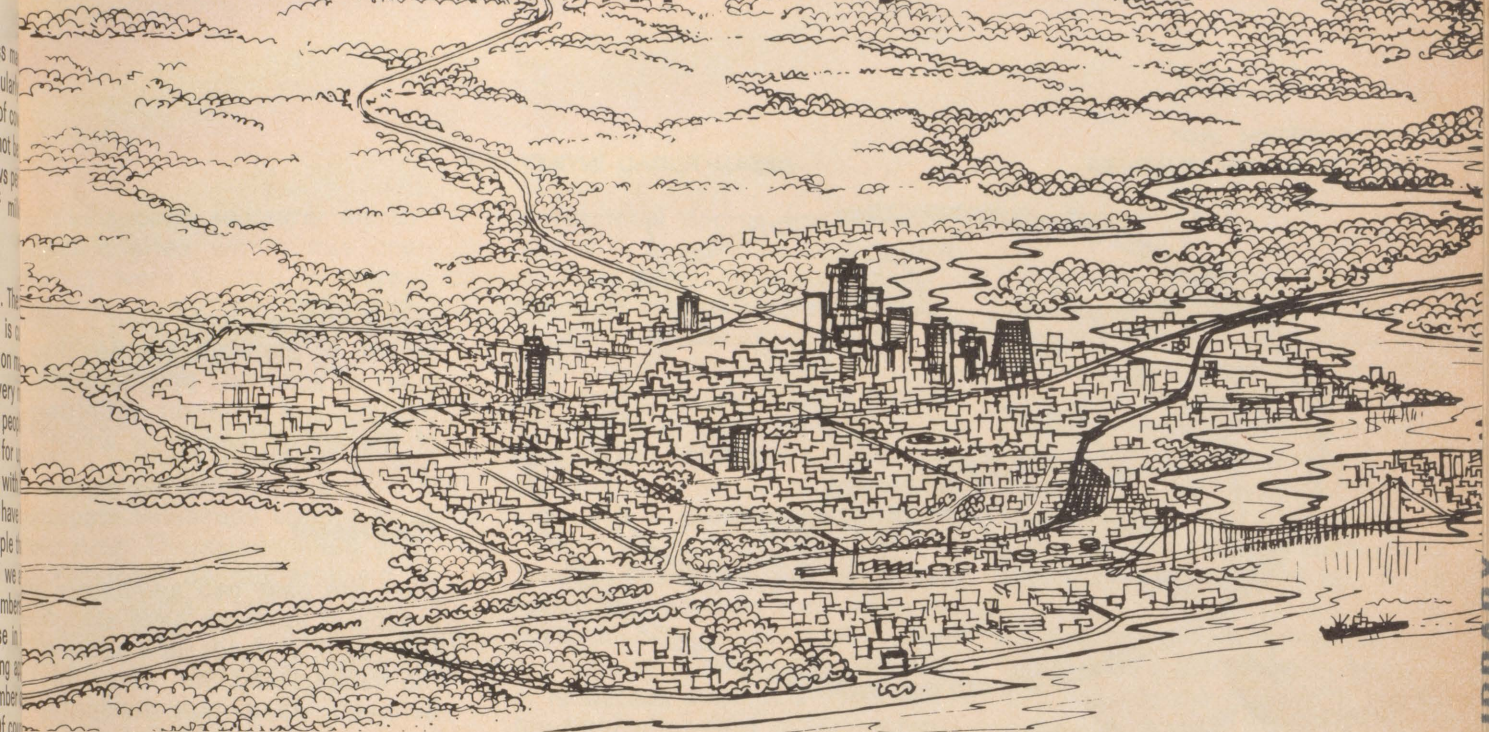
Ernie Turner: I agree. The prime advantage, I believe, is cutting down on the reliance on manpower. We rely, of course, very much more heavily on the people that we do have working for us, who are working directly with the animals. We have to have better qualified people. People that know the animals because we are dealing with large numbers. A big advantage is increase in herd size while maintaining approximately the same number of manhours going in. Of course, the surroundings are very conducive to getting closer to that 100 per cent productivity on the part of the staff. and I think to some extent we have achieved this.

Now definitely the cost involved is greater than with a conventional building. We have to ask ourselves is this cost amortized over a long period of time as great as the cost of labour would be.

The total staff normally numbers 10; this is year round labour. We have three people in the barn. I don't like to use the word men too much because we are not necessarily restricting ourselves to men, but at present we do not have any female staff, except in the office. There are four men outside, including myself, one man is currently taking care of the second barn, one man works year round in the woods, and one woman is in the office.

Rudi Dallenbach: Having had this opportunity to see part of your operation, I can easily see that the Webster family and their staff can be justifiably proud of Bonnyburn Farm and enthused for its future.

LANDSCAPE: a new opportunity



Professor D. W. Graham Department of Renewable Resources

The Department of Renewable Resources now includes six major areas leading to the B.Sc. (Agr.) degree. The youngest of these is the landscape major born in the fall of 1976 and just completing its first year of activity on the Macdonald Campus.

Students registered in any of the six majors gain a comprehensive overview of renewable resources, the socio-economic implications of their development and planning, and a thorough knowledge of the basic natural science disciplines involved.

The Landscape major course offering is tailored to include core courses from the Renewable Resources curriculum and, in addition, to draw together a body of knowledge from the biological sciences, agricultural engineering, and the social human behavioural fields.

The student's skills are sharpened and developed by exposure to the Design Process in relation to the resource courses available. A project-oriented or problem-solving approach encourages the student to face real-life problems

Landscape architecture is the art of applying scientific principles to the land... its planning, designing, and management... for the public health and welfare, with a commitment to the concept of stewardship of the land.

— Ford Foundation Study
of the Profession.

affecting the shape of today's landscapes. Research, analysis of information, synthesis of factors, and concept development form a part of this process. Through basic knowledge of the natural sciences the student examines and designs projects in a variety of urban and rural landscapes.

The landscape major is of interest to students planning to continue

with studies leading to professional careers in landscape architecture or other related fields.

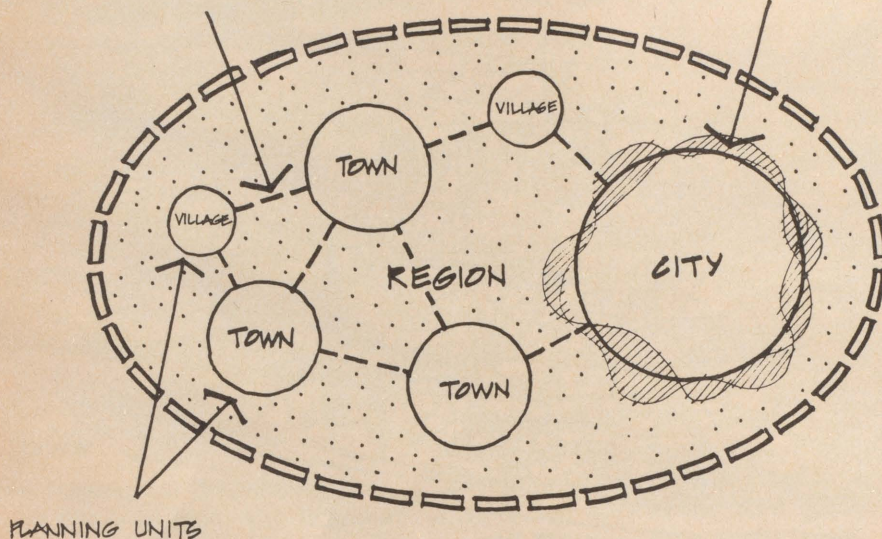
The Past

For over 25 years Macdonald College has offered specific courses related to Landscape Architecture through the Horticulture Department. Students fascinated by the field of design have pursued this interest in studies at a graduate level and many agriculture graduates are practising as landscape architects today, thanks to this introduction.

Frederick Law Olmsted, 1822-1903, is considered to be the father of what we now know as landscape architecture. It was he who first used this name for the profession while implementing the plan for Central Park, New York, in 1858. During his early life he tried many professions and following apprenticeship to two farmers he purchased a farm on Staten Island. After two years, his desire to travel resurfaced and he began a series of events which led him into landscape architecture and the public service. Since Olm-

TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS LINKAGES

URBAN-RURAL INTERFACE



URBAN - REGIONAL INTERRELATIONSHIPS

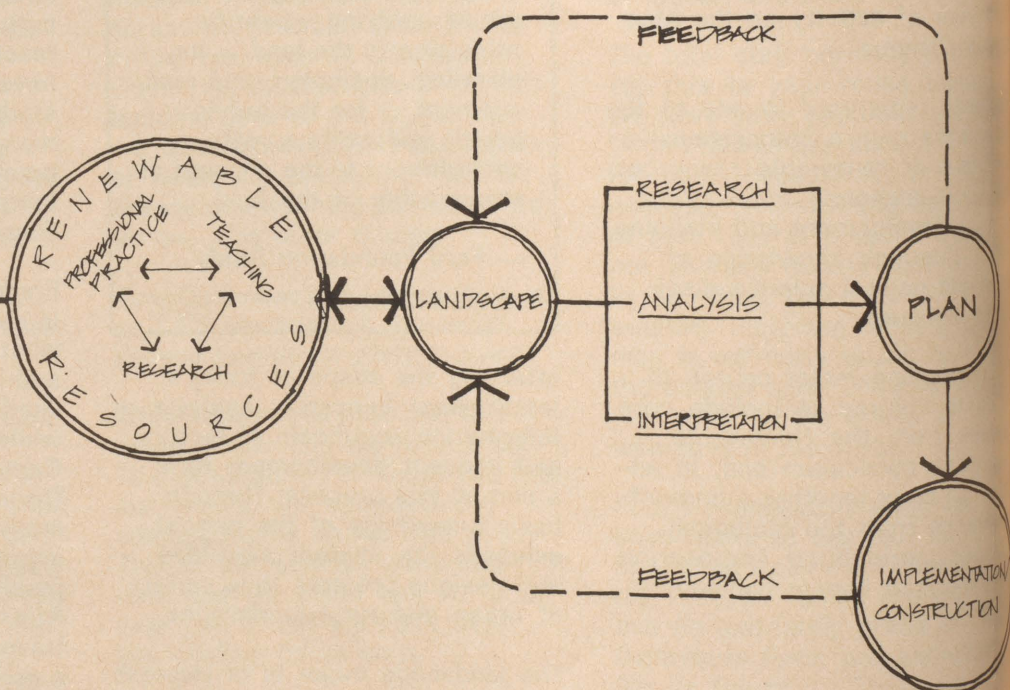
sted's time we have seen a steady growth of the field, the development of academic programs for training, and a clearer definition of the art of landscape architecture.

The Present

Over the past two semesters two groups of students have examined the regional landscape around the campus and Ste. Anne de Bellevue. As a multi-discipline type team they designed three alternative proposals for the open spaces of town and farm in the first semester.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RELATIONSHIPS

AGRONOMY
AGRIC. ENGINEERING
FORESTRY
PLANT ECOLOGY
WILDLIFE ECOLOGY
ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY
BOTANY/TAXONOMY
HORTICULTURE
CONSERVATION
RECREATION
SOIL SCIENCE
PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY
COMMUNICATIONS
ECONOMICS
PSYCHOLOGY



In the second semester seven specific sites within this community were studied in more detailed scale by individual students, producing some imaginative plans for development.

The present program at Macdonald College in the Landscape major is not intended to train and graduate landscape architects at this time. The development of a professional degree program is "in the works", but will take several years for academic development and provincial government approval.

At this time students enrolling in the Landscape major in first year will spend three years of study to acquire a B.Sc. (Agr.). Their undergraduate training would equip them to enter various fields of landscape planning or agricultural resource development on a non-professional basis. To obtain a

professional degree the student may wish to continue studies at a graduate level in one of the Master's degree programs now available in Canada. Alternate channels for the B.Sc. (Agr.) graduate to follow may be through a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program with advanced standing or a period of apprenticeship with a professional office.

These alternatives may seem confusing and perhaps time consuming to the undergraduate. Historically, however, a noticeable number of landscape architects come to the field after first experiencing another discipline. The disciplines of Agriculture, and, in particular, the Landscape major, provide a channel of study for the student which will focus on the landscape resource and its many facets of use by man.

The Future

What does the future hold for landscape architecture at Macdonald? It is a time of some uncertainty in academic circles. The priorities in Quebec may be changed more quickly over the next few years, but the land, the people, and the design of landscape will evolve at a more familiar pace as cities continue to encroach onto farmland and forest.

A four-year degree program in landscape architecture is being proposed to the University and the province. It could build on the unique resources of Macdonald College for learning and research, while at the same time emphasizing problem solving in the regional agricultural communities, and the critical rural-urban fringe areas around cities and towns.

General Course Outline		B.Sc. (Agr.) Renewable Resources, Landscape Major	
Year I	Year II	Year III	
Semester 1	Semester 3	Semester 5	
Introduction to Landscape Design Graphic Techniques I Principles of Soil Science Principles of Economics I Systematic Botany (4) Methods of Environmental Interpretation	The Urban Community Mechanics I Plant Ecology Introductory Sociology Research Methods for Social Surveys	Landscape I Project Plant Material Topics in Landscape 1 (Design) Seminar Communication and Extension Methods Law and the Protection of Fauna and Flora	
Semester 2	Semester 4	Semester 6	
Topics in Landscape II (Design) Graphic Techniques II Principles of Ecology Statistical Methods I The Physical Environment Soil Mechanics and Foundations	Conservation Renewable Resources Principles of Land Planning Assessing Environmental Impact Recreation Resource Management Engineering for Land Development	Landscape 2 Project Professional Practice Resource Economics Forest Resources Rural Sociology	
Summer Session			
Surveying			
Additional Electives may be selected from the following list:			
Principles of Plant Science Principles of Economics II Physical & Biological Aspects of Pollution Policy and Politics of Renewable Resource Development History of Architectural Theory I (Montreal Campus) Site Usage (Montreal Campus) Plant Physiology	Comparative Agriculture Technical and Research Writing Physical & Biological Aspects of Pollution II Geology and Geomorphology History of Architectural Theory II (Montreal Campus) Civic Design (Montreal Campus) Soil Survey	Weed Biology and Control Land and Resource Appraisal Fisheries and Wildlife Management Private Forestry Land & Resource Appraisal Principles of Soil Rating Wildlife Ecology Silviculture	

Minimizing

Baby Pig

Losses

by Professor Thomas G. Hartsock
Department of Animal Science

About one out of every four piglets born alive dies before reaching the age of weaning. That may sound unbelievable but it's true, and what's worse is that the situation now is about the same as it was 10 or 20 years ago. Since a sow eats over 36 kilograms (80 pounds) of feed for every piglet she produces, you can see how even the death of one piglet is costly.

Although it's probably impossible to save all liveborn piglets, it is certainly not unreasonable to set a goal of 85-90 per cent survival. The keys to achieving this high survival rate are simply stated:

- (1) provision of a proper maternity environment
- (2) the presence of a "midwife" during farrowing.

Carrying out these objectives costs time and/or money, an investment most commercial swine producers have not considered profitable in the past. However, the "investment" may be worthwhile, particularly if your mortality rate is 20 per cent or higher.



With proper care, Professor Hartsock feels that the chances for survival of the smaller piglet on the left could be nearly the same as for its bigger littermate.

Before discussing specific management techniques for minimizing piglet losses, let me first outline what we at present know about when, why, and how piglet losses occur. Figure 1 is the mortality pattern in 49 litters that I studied and it simply shows that about half of the deaths occurred during the first three days after birth. The fact that lots of piglets die in the first few days is not new information to swine producers but the graph should drive home the point that the critical period for saving piglets is fairly short — only two-three days — and that if you can keep a piglet alive for three days, you have virtually doubled its chances of survival.

Unfortunately many of the research studies on piglet mortality have concentrated on **how** the piglets died rather than **why**. For instance, we know that about half of the deaths are due to sow overlay. This led many to believe that sows were simply clumsy and that these deaths were inevitable, but the fact that small piglets are laid on more often than larger piglets is a sure sign that it may not be just the sow's fault. It appears that most piglets that get trampled or crushed are those that have

been weakened by any number of factors including starvation, chilling, and disease.

Newborn piglets are very competitive in their efforts to secure teats (see *Fighting in the Farrowing House* — Macdonald Journal, September, 1974), and the piglets that lose a lot of fights miss a lot of meals and therefore are partially starved. If these piglets are further stressed by chilling or by contact with high concentrations of disease organisms, they continue to weaken and often become an overlay statistic.

A second factor, in addition to birthweight, that is closely related to piglet mortality is the order of birth. Several studies show that piglets born early in the birth order stand a much greater chance of survival than those born later in the order. Thus the lighter piglet that is born after most of its littermates have already arrived is in serious trouble from the time it is born.

Knowing what we do about piglet mortality, what can we do to prevent it? The first step is to provide an environment for the

ewborn piglet that minimizes stress on the piglet. This means that the farrowing area must be clean, dry, warm, and free of drafts. Since all of these factors are extremely important, I'd like to talk about each of them in some detail.

Cleanliness is your first line of defence in disease prevention. The farrowing area should be the cleanest place on your farm, and this area should be off-limits to anyone but the persons caring for your sows and litters. No person or animal (including pets) that has been exposed to pigs from another farm should be permitted to enter the farrowing area without first having been properly cleaned and/or quarantined. These precautions should prevent the spread of diseases such as transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE), a highly contagious disease that kills over 90 per cent of all young piglets that it infects.

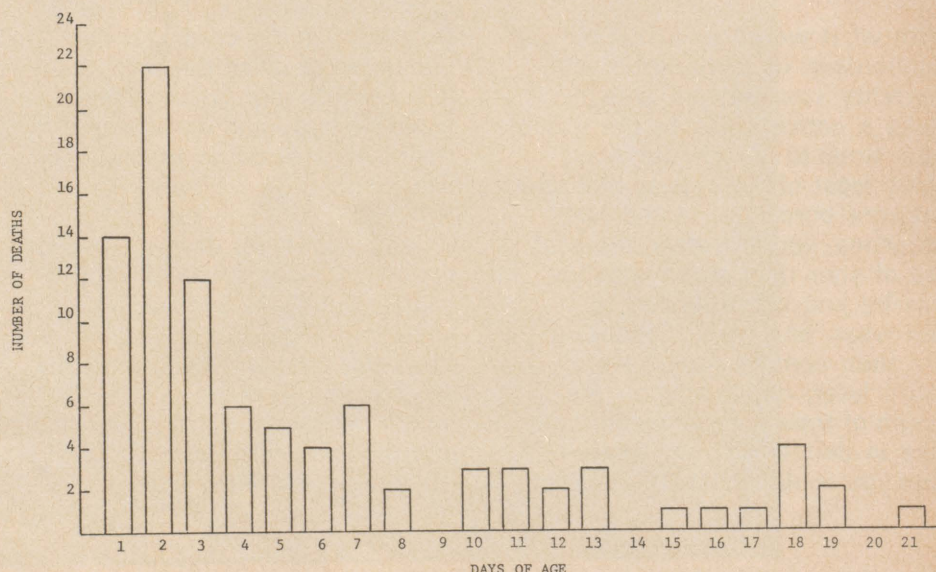
The most serious disease affecting baby pigs in Canada is probably colibacillosis (white scours, piglet scours). This disease is caused by a bacterial organism called *Escherichia coli*. For a piglet to develop colibacillosis, one or both of the following things usually must happen: the piglet is exposed to large numbers of the organism (in heavily contaminated manure) and/or the piglet is weakened by some stress (chilling, starvation, etc.). Since there are always some *E. coli* bacteria around (it is impossible to eliminate them under farm conditions), you must prevent the occurrence of heavy contamination. Sows should be washed before being brought into the farrowing area, and the farrowing pens should be thoroughly cleaned between litters. Disinfectants should be used after

washing if this disease becomes a problem. Manure should be removed from the pen frequently to minimize contact with the piglets. If the pens are cleaned properly and the piglets kept comfortable, this disease will only be an occasional problem for you.

Most disease organisms require a moist environment in order to thrive, therefore keeping your pens dry will help prevent disease outbreaks. In addition, piglets that must sleep in wet bedding chill a lot faster. Wet floors are also slipperier than dry floors and this is particularly important for piglets when they are first starting to walk and for piglets with spraddle leg disease (splay leg). Spraddle-legged piglets have trouble standing on their hind legs and "sit" with their front legs supporting them and their hind legs spread out sideways. These pigs will often recover in three to four days if they are able to suckle and avoid overlay, and dry floors with a good cover of bedding will help them get on their feet a little faster.

Heat leaks out of newborn piglets like water running through a sieve, and the only way to keep their body temperature from dropping is by keeping them very warm. The temperature of the farrowing room should be about 21°C (70°) with an additional heat source, usually a heatlamp, being available for the piglets. The additional heat source should provide a "micro environment" temperature of about 30°C (85-90°F). Don't try to heat the whole room up to 30°C because the sow is severely stressed at such high temperatures.

When designing pens, keep in mind that the piglet lives on the floor and that conditions down there may be quite different than up where you are. Drafts are a particular problem in our cold climate and the piglets may be feeling them even though you don't. Outside walls of barns produce drafts because the cold, "heavy" air along the walls falls down to the floor, thus a very important rule in building the pens in a farrowing house is not to build them along the outside walls.



Distribution of Piglet Deaths by Days of Age.

Also, use solid fencing around each pen, up to a height of about 0.5 meters (18 inches) to minimize air flow at floor level. The solid partitions will also slow the spread of disease from one pen to another. As well, locate the sleeping area of the piglets as far away from the outside wall as possible. Finally, ventilation fans and air inlets should be located in places that will minimize drafts.

If your farrowing house is designed properly and is kept clean, dry, and warm, you have come a long way toward minimizing piglet losses. However, losses can be reduced even further if an experienced person is present while the sow is farrowing. This involves a lot of extra effort because many sows will farrow in the wee hours of the morning, but most researchers agree that one or more piglets per litter could be saved if help were present. I might add that from my experience women seem to be much more conscientious and do a better job than men in caring for sows and litters in the farrowing house.

With what we know about the relationship of birth order and mortality you may be able to make a compromise in the use of your time to watch the sow. Since most of the piglets that need help are born later in the birth sequence, you can make the best use of your time spent with the sow by just checking her to see when she starts labouring and then coming back several hours later, depending on the length of time your sows normally take to deliver a litter. At this time you could assist those piglets

having trouble getting to the udder, clip needle teeth and tie navel cords if necessary. Since the first few hours after birth are the most critical for the piglets, I recommend that the piglets be stressed as little as possible at this time. This means that things like ear notching, tattooing, docking, etc. should be put off until the next day and that needle teeth clipping and navel tying can wait for a while until the piglet has got to the udder and suckled.

Navel bleeding (umbelical hemorrhage) may be a serious problem in some herds and if this is the case in your herd, you will probably be better off tying the cords of all piglets. In those herds where bleeding is not a serious problem, the occasional bleeder can be easily spotted if the piglets are on clean shavings since the fresh bloodstains will stand out noticeably. Bleeding usually starts about 30 to 60 minutes after birth and should be stopped immediately by tying the cord off fairly close to the body with soft string. Be careful not to pull the string so tight that it cuts through the cord. Cut off the extra length of the cord about five centimeters (two inches) from the body and dip the end of the cord into iodine to prevent infection.

If you are present during the entire farrowing, what can and should you be doing? As each piglet is born, you should check to see that fetal membranes and mucus are cleared from its nose and mouth so it can breathe. Dry the piglet with a cloth or dry shavings (to reduce chilling) but don't

pick up the piglet. If the navel cord is still attached, let the piglet pull it free. Healthy, vigorous piglets will be on their feet in a few minutes and headed for the udder. Once they are stable on their feet, you should pick them up and place them at the udder. Some piglets are not vigorous at birth and do not get on their feet within a few minutes, and these piglets are often born with the navel cords already severed. While inside the sow, piglets get their oxygen through the navel cord. If the cord breaks before they emerge from the sow, they are without oxygen and will suffer brain damage or die if they aren't born within a very few minutes. When they do finally get out of the sow and begin to breathe they are oxygen starved and exhausted and they won't be able to walk or suckle until they "get their wind back". Although the temptation is strong to hold them up to a teat and try to get them to suckle, I have found that a lot of these piglets respond better if they are put under the heat lamp for 15-30 minutes and are then helped to the udder.

To summarize, I believe that swine producers might benefit economically by spending a little more time and money in an effort to reduce piglet mortality. I have suggested that the mortality rate could be reduced to 10-15 per cent if the piglets are born into a proper environment and given some assistance at birth. At current feed and labour prices, each of your piglets is worth at least \$10 on the day it is born. Can you still afford this loss?

The Family Farm



Published in the interests of the farmers of the province by the Quebec Department of Agriculture.



An Economic Review of Agriculture in Quebec in 1976

In 1976, the agricultural economy served both as a stimulus and a stabilizing factor to Quebec's overall economic situation. As a stimulus, it activated capital expenditures in the primary and food processing sectors more than in the overall economy; as a stabilizing factor, it made farm products and foodstuffs chiefly responsible for the decrease in the 1976 rate of inflation.

The doubly positive contribution of the agro-food sector to the overall economy was pointed out, as was fitting, by the Quebec Minister of Agriculture, Jean Garon, at the annual economic review conference.

According to the Minister, however, on more than one occasion in 1976, the Quebec farmer deserved to be in the forefront of economic activity, but

for this was not awarded even a bronze medal, let alone a gold or silver one. As a matter of fact, the latest available figures indicate that the Quebec farmer in 1976 experienced an 8 per cent decrease in his net income gains, which in 1976 had increased by more than 20 per cent.

The Minister believes that this fact should be a cause for concern not only on the part of the De-



Mr. Jean Garon, Quebec Minister of Agriculture.

partment of Agriculture and farmers' associations but equally on the part of consumers at large who in 1976 enjoyed food products in sufficient quantities and at relatively low prices. Adjustment measures are needed in 1977 in order to provide, on one hand, an adequate net income to our producers and, on the other hand, greater self-sufficiency. According to the Minister, it is at present essential that producers and consumers pursue jointly this double objective rather than adhere to divergent interests.

Agricultural Production

The dominant feature of 1976 in the Quebec dairy industry was by far the decrease in production resulting from the application of a federal policy of tight marketing controls.

Last April, after an exceptional dairy year, Quebec producers were faced with lower production quotas as a result of having responded only too favourably in 1975 to a highly incentive federal policy. Dairy men who became subject to severe penalties upon violation of the new quota policy reacted immediately by reducing feed rations and slaughtering a great number of their animals.

Last December 31, the 3.7 per cent decline in the overall dairy production represented a decrease of 5.4 per cent in industrial milk deliveries and a 4 per cent increase in fluid milk deliveries. At the end of the dairy year extending from

April 1, 1976 to March 31, 1977, the slowing down of our dairy production resulted in decreases of 13.3 per cent and 7.6 per cent in the industrial milk and fluid milk sectors respectively.

As regards returns, the high production in the first months of 1976, a slight rise in the price of milk, and intervention on the part of the Quebec Government resulted in an increase of some \$5,000,000 over the value of sales recorded in 1975. At the producer's level, the total income generated by the dairy industry amounted to \$652.9 million as compared to \$647.7 million the previous year.

As for 1977, certain factors such as the re-establishment of a balance between offer and demand and the trend towards increased consumption give us reason to be optimistic. However, the upswing in milk deliveries could prove to be difficult in the first few months of the new dairy year, owing to a marked decline in our capacity to produce during the past few months.

Cattle Production

In 1976, the decrease in the cattle population took on the aspect of a North American phenomenon. Reaching 5.2 per cent in Quebec, it was more pronounced here than anywhere else, and was unique because it was entirely brought about by an increase in the number of dairy cattle slaughtered. The dairy population alone was

decreased by 52,000 head or 4.2 per cent while the number of calves was reduced by 8.9 per cent.

The farmers' decision to reduce their livestock was responsible for a 61.8 per cent increase in the number of mature slaughtered cattle of Quebec origin. This, combined with an analogous trend elsewhere in North America, caused prices to drop by as much as \$5 per pound for A-1 and A-2 grades. After a year of strict fixed quotas, the resumption of trade with our neighbour to the south raised the number of commercial sales of Quebec calves by 20.1 per cent during the first 10 months of 1976 while prices for common and medium quality animals increased by 7.7 per cent.

As for the boned meat market, it experienced a rise in the first months of the year and then dropped during the summer as a result of the massive entry of Australian products.

A decrease in the number of animals slaughtered throughout North America and an approximate increase of \$6 per hundredweight is expected for 1977.

Swine Production

For the past three years, the stability which has characterized swine production in Quebec has been in direct contrast to the fluctuations experienced in the rest of Canada and in the United States. In our province, producers have taken to specializing in hogs

whereas elsewhere, the hog industry is considered rather as an adjunct to the development of the grain market. This specialization has resulted in a marked improvement in the quality of Quebec pork and consequently, in better grading of the product than in 1975.

In 1976, an estimated 2.3 million hogs were sold commercially in Quebec, a number which closely approximates the total sales in the previous year. Quebec's share of the Canadian market increased to 29.8 per cent.

With regards to prices, there has been a drop since last summer, and in 1977, they are expected to remain stable at a low level, with a possibility of picking up by the end of the year. However, production costs, too, should remain rather low, taking into account an adequate supply of forage cereals.

Poultry

Massive imports dominated the broiler chicken sector in 1976, and this, combined with a rise of about 13 per cent in Quebec's production resulted in lower prices. For the first 11 months of the year, Canadian imports of poultry from the United States amounted to 50.4 million pounds, that is, an increase of 175.7 per cent over the preceding year.

As regards roasters and turkeys, the situation appeared more favourable; their production and prices were on the upswing in 1976 and prospects look very promising for 1977.

Eggs

In the consumer egg sector, 1976 was a year dominated by supply management problems. By last November 1, production had risen by 3.4 per cent over the corresponding period in 1975 and sales had increased by 8.9 per cent. The application of a price-fixing formula based on production costs was another important decision affecting egg producers in 1976.

Crop Productions

A late spring and heavy summer rains resulted in lower yields for most of the cereal crops produced in Quebec. Consequently, despite a stable area of land under cultivation, the 1976 crop estimated at 45.5 million bushels is 4.1 per cent lower than the bumper crop of 1975.

The 5.2 million tons of hay harvested approximately equalled the amount produced in 1975; however, its quality was inferior to that of the preceding year. Quebec producers seeded 200,000 acres of forage corn which resulted in a 2.8 million-ton harvest and a 6 per cent increase over the previous year.

With the exception of potatoes which gave record yields, the production of vegetables was on the whole poorer than that of

former years. Poor weather conditions at the beginning of summer severely hampered early varieties while those at the end of the season maintained or improved yields of late varieties. In 1977, Quebec vegetable producers should be able to benefit by an increased demand for vegetables owing to greater pressure of European countries on the American market.

Fruit

Apple production in 1976 is expected to have dropped by about 33.4 per cent. This decrease was probably occasioned by the aging of orchards, increased labour costs and unfavourable weather conditions. Inversely, prices were on the increase and are expected to remain so during 1977.

The blueberry harvest was 30.7 per cent less than in 1975 owing to labour problems and unfavourable weather conditions; the strawberry crop rose by 44.5 per cent and that of raspberries by 12.7 per cent.

It was an excellent year for maple products not only in terms of quantity but also of quality. This fact, combined with a low inventory level and major exports, led to better prices for producers.

Sugar beet production was hampered by the low prices offered for the crop in 1975. The area of land under cultivation decreased by 15.3 per cent and unfavourable weather conditions caused a total drop in production of 24.3 per

cent. Likewise, reduced area and lower yields affected tobacco production by a 13.2 per cent drop in comparison with that of 1975. Despite an ever-increasing production capacity, the Quebec agricultural industry experienced a difficult year owing to poor weather conditions.

Income and Operating and Depreciation Expenditures

According to return estimates presented at the conference on Canadian agricultural prospects, the gross income obtained by Quebec farmers could climb to \$1.5 billion in 1976, an increase of 1.7 per cent over the preceding year. Despite a decline in dairy production, this positive fluctuation is explained by a significant upswing in beef and poultry productions and a slight general rise in agricultural prices. On the other hand, a marked increase in operating and depreciation expenditures, although less significant than in recent years, kept the net income level lower than in 1975 and caused it to drop by 8.6 per cent.

Income distribution based on productions confirms the predominance of the dairy industry, which, according to Statistics Canada, generated 47.2 per cent of the total cash receipts amounting to \$652.9 million, including \$10,000,000 paid out in 1976 under the provincial assistance program for dairy farmers.

Receipts from swine production should amount to \$238.1 million, representing a drop of 3.7 per cent in comparison with last year's record gains. The greatest increase was registered in the cattle sector where receipts could reach \$140.6 million, that is 36.4 per cent above last year's total.

The production of poultry meat resulted in a 7.4 per cent increase in receipts while egg producers should net an income 24.5 per cent over that of the previous year. On the whole, sales of animals and animal products should net Quebec producers nearly \$1.1 billion, that is a total increase of 4.3 per cent over the previous year. If supplementary payments to the dairy industry are included, this sector accounts for 88.4 per cent of the total cash receipts.

As a result of lower receipts in the cereal, fruit, and vegetable sectors, income from plant products could, as a whole, decrease by 1.2 per cent and level off at \$147.3 million, despite the increase in receipts from the sale of potatoes, tobacco, and maple products.

The rise in operating and depreciation costs was the lowest recorded in Quebec since 1971; nonetheless, this was sufficient to bring about a lower net income for farm producers in the province. These expenditures would, in fact, have increased by 6.4 per cent in 1976 to level off at \$1.1 billion after an average annual increase of 16.9 per cent since 1972.

This increase in expenditures has resulted more from an increased cost of goods and services purchased by the farmers than from an increase in the volume of inputs used. As a matter of fact, the price index of agricultural inputs in eastern Canada rose by 5.2 per cent during the first three quarters in 1976. Marked increases were also noted for expenditures related to interest on debt, petroleum products, and salaried labour, while expenditures for fertilizer, lime and crop-related products such as pesticides experienced a drop.

Processing and Trade

The food and beverage processing industry benefited but to a lesser degree by the general recovery of the Canadian economy in 1976, notwithstanding considerable investment. In Quebec, capital expenditures in this sector rose by 42.1 per cent in comparison with 10.7 per cent in the economy as a whole.

Despite a slight increase in sales prices, the high cost of raw materials and labour resulted in reduced profit margins in the food and beverage industry during 1976 which should slow down investments in 1977.

At the retail level, food sales continue to represent a large turnover, i.e., about 30 per cent of the aggregate retail trade. In Quebec, during the first nine months in 1976, food-outlet sales rose to \$3 billion in comparison with \$2.7 billion in 1975 — a 9.8 per cent increase.

Consumption and Prices

considerable slackening of the rate of increase in food prices and higher available income have brought about appreciable improvements in the demand for food products since 1976. From January to November 1976, the food price index for the Montreal urban area increased by 3 per cent compared with the corresponding period in 1975 while prices of household food showed only one per cent increase.

owing to greater available stocks, the reduced price of beef resulted in an 8.6 per cent increase in beef consumption per capita in Canada, which reached 69.8 pounds during the first nine months of 1976. In comparison, veal, pork, and lamb consumption decreased by 2.4 per cent. As regards poultry, especially chicken and turkey, consumption increased by about two pound per capita in spite of slight price increases.

The trend towards lower milk consumption observed in recent years was reversed in 1976. In fact, during the first nine months of the year, Quebec's consumption increased 3.7 per cent to 146 pounds per capita. A publicity program on the nutritional qualities of milk combined with relatively stable prices are mainly responsible for this increase.

Additional promotional programs, put forward by producers in

co-operation with other organizations, including the department of Agriculture, reveal greater concern on the part of certain groups of producers in the face of the other steps in the agro-food chain and one of the most positive developments in 1976.

The year 1976 was an especially difficult one for Quebec farmers and it is probable that, in 1977, their net income will again be slightly reduced. Weather certainly did not help, limiting as it did returns for crop productions, but the determining factor remains the restrictive policy imposed on dairy producers by the federal government. Had it not been for the increase in income resulting from an abnormally high rate of slaughter of dairy cattle, the producers' net income would have been reduced more substantially. It is to be hoped that producers will no longer have to sacrifice their production capacity to make both ends meet.

Although such considerations do not render less tragic the net income reduction sustained by producers in 1976, it must be noted that there is a certain slowing down of this cyclic phenomenon which usually occurs every three years. The last slump dates back to 1971, which means that producers benefited by a longer

period of increased income than in the past. This is an important factor which should encourage producers to keep up their efforts to increase their degree of self-sufficiency on the farm, which is still the ideal way for them to protect themselves from the considerable fluctuations in input prices. Along with these profitability efforts on the farm, gradual implementation of the farm income stabilization schemes should help reduce negative effects of cyclic variations.

QWI

QWI Annual Convention

The Annual Convention of the Quebec Women's Institutes will be held at Macdonald College from May 30 through June 2: Executive Meeting, May 30; Board Meeting, May 31; Open Convention, June 1 and 2. The theme this year is Communication, Co-ordination, Co-operation, and Confidence. Guest speakers will be Mrs. Marion Fulton, Area Vice-President for Canada, ACWW, and Mr. Rudi Dallenbach, Director, Macdonald College Farm. Visitors are welcome, and it is hoped that there will be a good turnout of members from across the province. A reminder that all registration forms should be sent to the office as soon as possible. Remember to send stamps for ACWW with your delegate.

We are in the process of having our office copies of the Journal bound and wonder if you can help us with this undertaking. We do not have any copies for the 1940s; we have no copies for 1950, 51, and 52. We only have the March 1953 issue, the December 1954 issue, the May to December 1955 issues and the January, March to December 1956 issues. We have complete files for 1957 to 1976. If you have any of the above missing copies and would not mind parting with them, would you please write to the Office, telling us which ones you have. The Secretary will then let you know what copies are still required. These could be brought in to convention by the branch delegate, thus avoiding postal costs. We would appreciate this assistance, as we feel that the information in the Journal is a valuable record of our past accomplishments.

Murdochville Highlights

It was good to hear from **Murdochville** branch in Gaspé County; we have not heard from them for a long time. The ladies there have been quite active. To raise funds, card parties and bake sales are held. At different times the Bay donates articles on which tickets were sold. A Valentine Tea was held and tickets sold on a Valentine cake. The ladies made drapes for the hospital at Murdochville; books were donated to the High School and money to the School Year Book and to an Education Tour. Gifts were sent to the Ross Sanatorium in Gaspé. Some interesting articles have been read at the meetings. A few were: Natural Wonders, Missing Mittens, Getting Credit, Winter Sport Safety, A Great Moment in Modern Science, This branch entertained the County President and presented her with a cup and saucer and plaques were given to members with high attendance. Members who were sick and in hospital were visited.

The President of **Dunham**, Mrs. Ruby Sherrer, read the following poem, at the branch's annual meeting. Both the Publicity Convener for Missisquoi County, Norma Sherrer, and I feel it is worth sharing. The poem is believed to have come from Ireland.

OUR WI

When I was young and newly wed,
My friends and neighbours duly said,
"Now you be smart and resolute
And join the Women's Institute".
It will help pass many a dreary hour

and strengthen your domestic power.

But, I, in turn was horrified
Was I to be transmogrified?
The Institute was for OLD
And I was young, gay and bold.
But then, in time I weakened some
And said, "alright, tonight I'll come".

I pictured all the nice old dears,
With clicking tongues and listening ears,

All caught up with their knitting trend

Domesticated to the end.

But now, I think it should be said
My pre-conceived ideas soon fled.
Though some were old, yet some were young

All were lively and full of fun.
While home and children played their part

They talked as well of clothes and art;

And speakers from all arts and parts

Beguiled their way into our hearts.

So, older now, and wiser too,
I'd welcome any member new,
And tell them they are destitute,
WITHOUT THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Several months ago it was mentioned that **Fordyce** had a taste of Squaw Bread at their meeting. This recipe was made by Mrs. Edna Longeway, the Home Economics Convener.

Squaw Bread

(An updated version of an Indian recipe)

- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ cup dried milk
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- about 1 cup warm water

Combine dry ingredients in a bowl. Gradually add enough of warm water to make soft dough. Divide dough in half and turn out on lightly floured surface. Pat into 8-inch circles about 1/2 inch thick. Cut into pie-shaped wedges. Slit centre of each wedge. Fry quickly in deep, hot fat (375°) or in approximately two inches hot fat in oil in an electric frypan at 375°. Drain on absorbent paper. While warm dust with powdered sugar. Dough that is over-handled will tend to make tough bread.

Note: Good when eaten immediately — found them tough when cold.

taken from "Our Indian Heritage" — Autumn Ideals 1972.

Dear WI Members,

Around the middle of the month I look forward to receiving the reports from the various publicity conveners. At first I was a little hesitant about opening the letters, but now they seem like messages from friends. I can tell at a glance from which county they come and have learned a great deal about other parts of the province. The talks to the post office have been very pleasant this past week, for we have had a few days of summer weather. With the bright sun, the soft breeze, and the water tumbling down the ditches and lawns, we are sure that spring is here. But March is a fickle lady and some morning we may awake to find that winter is back, but just long enough to remind us that we must accept the vagaries of the weather. When this is in print, we will be "knee-deep" in May with the budding apple blossoms and lilacs; children playing marbles and skipping, and tractors busy on the land. May is surely a productive month!

Some items of news were common to many of our branches. Delegates were appointed to their respective county meetings and plans were made to attend the Provincial Convention at MacDonald College. The election of

officers for next year was held and annual reports read. This was followed by payment of dues and programs were drawn up for the coming year. Some branches collected Pennies for Friendship and others made plans regarding the filling of Handi Bags.

This report from **Rawdon Branch**, Montcalm County, was very welcome. Twelve members answered the roll call with a word or words including the word "LOVE" for Valentine's. Discussions and plans for the spring card party to be held on May 13th took place. There will be a raffle with an advance sale of tickets. The Scholarship Fund was discussed and it was agreed to add a rider that the recipient must continue his or her studies at an accredited CEGEP or college. A letter was read from Miss Shirley May, a teacher at Eskimo Bay, describing the conditions there. She asked for scrap material and wool to be used for handicrafts and dress-up etc. It was arranged to prepare a box at the next meeting.

Another appreciated report was from **Clarendon Branch**, Pontiac County. A highlight was that arrangements are being made to celebrate their 60th anniversary on April 5th, at Bob Smith's Restaurant. Volunteers were called to go on the hospital cart in March, and a trophy is to be presented annually to the top girl in the Homemakers Club. The branch accepted an invitation from Stark's Corner WI to attend their May meeting. Numerous knitted articles had been handed in for CanSave. The same can be said for **Bristol, Waterloo-Warden, Stark's Corners, Howick, Dalesville-Louisa**, and **Grenville**.

Aylmer received and put on display a Needlepoint picture — a gift from the late Mrs. Dorothy Ellard.

News from **West Island** in Baldwin Cartier: members donated an AM-FM radio to "The Teapot", a drop-in centre for senior citizens in the Lachine area, where people

go to chat over tea or coffee, play bingo on Fridays, etc. Marigold seeds and jiffy 7s have been given out to Grade 1 students in Lachine. In the past they gave to one or two schools but they have now expanded to six, the response was so great. The children keep the seeds in their class-rooms with the teachers keeping an eye on particular children's enthusiasm. The teachers and WI members judge and give out prizes in June. West Island members have also been making plans for catering for the Annual Convention.

The following is not recent, but **Wyman** branch reported that an account manager with the Bank of Montreal led a discussion on the investment facilities of this bank.

The convener for **Stark's Corners** writes, "there are 25 members; this group has young mothers and some of the ladies work outside the home. It is an interesting and lively group. The meetings are by no means gossip sessions; they are full of business and activities."

An item to be noted is from **Dalesville-Louisa** in Argenteuil. It was stated that there was a need for stiffer legislation to protect elderly people against crimes committed by minors. These wrongs seem to be on the increase and in many cases they are instigated by older people who use minors to commit them. As they are young, they will receive, if apprehended, lighter sentences. A motion was passed that the members join in taking action to bring this to the attention of those in authority. At **Jerusalem-Bethany** WI there was the presentation of a life membership pin to Mrs. Foster Campbell by the retiring president, Mrs. M. McCaskill, who pointed out the many positions Mrs. Campbell had held in the branch, as well as on the county executive, and was always ready at any time to further Institute work. At the **Frontier** meeting, Mrs. P. Clark outlined

the most important points from the report on the Provincial Board Meeting, and a letter was read thanking them for their donation to the Orange Home at Rosemere. Four branches from Sherbrooke County reported. **Ascot** entertained the county executive at the home of Mrs. H. Robertson with a chicken pie dinner. The roll call "Sing, Say or Pay a Dime" was answered by bits of philosophy, poems, sprightly songs, a dance step or two, and one member made up a poem on the spur of the moment because she had no dime. At **Belvidere**, the education convener, Myrtle Pitman drew attention to the television program Reach For the Top in which the pupils from Alexander Galt Regional School are competing. The Welfare and Health convener said that 450 dressings had been made for the cancer room, and the same number of dressings handed in by **Lennoxville**. The latter also reported donations to the gift cupboard and a letter was read from a member's sponsored child in Korea who is 12 years old. Members from **Brompton Road** Hospital visited the Sherbrooke Hospital and donated little bags of homemade fudge to put on patient's trays under the supervision of the dietary kitchen. **Milby** reported on a series of "500" card parties which had been a financial success. To help with these proceeds, an afghan and cushion made by Mrs. Pansy Powell and a Valentine Cake made by Mrs. Jean Naybor had been raffled. Branch conveners had compiled thorough annual reports.

New members are reported in Missisquoi County — four ladies joined **Cowansville** branch at their last meeting and two joined **Fordyce**. At **Cowansville** members were asked to bring in articles for the handi bags and to save eye glasses and plastic bread clips. **Fordyce** reports that their cook books are on sale (for \$3.00). These books were printed and assembled by the residents of the Retarded Childrens Home at St. Blaise. A Dresden plate quilt

has been set up in a member's home and the ladies are quilting on it. At the **Dunham** meeting, a birthday cake was presented at tea time to two members who were celebrating birthdays. Other branches reporting new members were **Waterloo-Warden**, one; **Marcil**, one; **Ascot**, one, and **Milby**, four.

The agriculture convener at **Granby Hill** read an article about Britain having had the most rainfall in years; there was some flooding there. We know from our own news media that the weather has been an important topic, and that scientists are endeavouring to explain the changes that have been experienced in this respect lately, and that the world in general learn to cope with any major change in the weather.

Kinnear's Mills prepared the lunch for a baby shower held in Thetford Mines, and sent a get-well card with a gift of money to a local child who had been in hospital. School Fair prize lists were given out and plans made to order the garden seeds for the Fair; **Marcil** branch said "seeds are on order for school fair gardens." Another sign of spring! **Inverness** ladies sold some material and two shopping bags and mitts were turned in.

Seven members attended the **Port Daniel** meeting. A stretcher and mattress were purchased for the Port Daniel Arena. **Matapedia** had 15 out of their 22 members present at their annual meeting. It was decided to use their talent money to help with finances. One member, Mrs. Frances Stephensen from **Wright** reports that they had just held their publicity meeting. Their roll call was "My idea of an interesting news article or newscast." Two readings were given: Food for Thought, and Ups and Downs of News Reporting. A Chinese Auction was held, this served two purposes; it was a time for fun, as well it added to their funds. Then, at tea time the hostess served a special cake

marking the 38th anniversary of the branch. They were very fortunate to have three charter members present.

A few interesting speakers have been reported. **Murdochville** heard Mrs. Cullogen speak on cancer and at **Matapedia** Mrs. Enright gave a demonstration on the St. John Ambulance First Aid Course. Mr. Jacques Rouselle, Field Secretary of Canadian Cancer Society, showed two interesting films on habits we perform unconsciously, for the members of **Upper Lachute-East End**.

Donations reported were many and generous. **Beech Grove** gave \$100 to the local hospital, \$50 to the community rink and gave to the school committee for lunches. **Wyman**, \$100 to the Mindy Gordon Fund, and **Fort Coulogne**, \$25 to the Pontiac Community Hall. Heart Fund cans were collected and an extra \$5 given by **Grenville** while **Lakefield** gave \$10 to the Montreal Association for the Retarded, \$5 to the Auxiliary of the Douglas Hospital and \$50 to Holy Trinity Church to help pay for lights on the skating rink. **Arundel** branch gave donations to the school for prizes to be presented to the graduating class. At their March meeting **Lachute** group passed a motion to give \$300 to the Residence to purchase a serving wagon. **Stark's Corners** gave \$50 to Canadian Project for Irish Children; \$25 towards buying regular lunches for needy children and \$80 for clothes for a senior citizen whose home was burned.

We have some mottoes, too, for this month. He deserves paradise who makes his companions laugh. (**Kinnear's Mills**). . . Never live in hope or expectation while your arms are folded. (**Cowansville**), and Chief Dan George said "The face only speaks the language of the passing years."

Gladys C. Nugent
Publicity Convener

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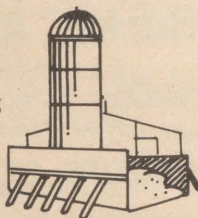
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